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REPORT ON THE UNITED NATIONS/EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY WORKSHOP ON MICROWAVE REMOTE SENSING APPLICATIONS, HOSTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA

(Beijing, China, 14-18 September 1994)

CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	Page
INTRODUCTION	1-8	2
A. Background and objectives	1-4	2
B. Organization and programme of the Workshop	5-8	2
OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	9-20	3
A. Data availability and accessibility	10-12	3
B. Practical applications of radar data	13-23	4
C. Required education and training	24-26	6
Annexes		
I. Summary of presentations	1-58	8
A. Future missions of the European Space Agency	1-10	8
B. Overview of Canada's GlobeSAR programme	11-14	9
C. Development of microwave remote sensing technology in China	15-18	10
D. Applications of microwave remote sensing data in India	19-28	11
E. Applications of radar technology: the Philippine experience	29-38	13
F. Applications of radar data in agriculture and land-use management in Thailand	39-48	14
G. European Community/ESA/ASEAN ERS-1 Project	49-58	16
II. Programme of the Workshop		18
Tables		
1. Flood monitoring and prediction		4
2. Coastal and marine applications		5
3. Agricultural applications		5

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INTRODUCTION

A. Background and objectives

1. The General Assembly adopted resolution 37/90 of 10 December 1982, endorsing the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82) and decided, among other things, that the United Nations Programme on Space Applications should promote the dissemination of information on advanced space applications and new systems developments among Member States, particularly for the benefit of the developing countries. At its thirty-sixth session in June 1993, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space endorsed the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 1994 as recommended by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee at its thirtieth session. Subsequently, the General Assembly, in resolution 48/39 of 10 December 1993, endorsed the activities of the Programme on Space Applications for 1994.

2. The United Nations/European Space Agency Workshop on Microwave Remote Sensing Applications was part of the 1994 activities of the Programme on Space Applications. The Workshop was co-sponsored by the European Space Agency (ESA) and organized in cooperation with the Government of China and hosted by the State Science and Technology Commission of China (SSTCC) and its National Remote Sensing Center (NRSC), from 14 to 18 September 1994, for the benefit of participants from developing countries.

3. The objective of the Workshop was to expose the participants to various aspects of current and future microwave remote sensing systems and applications of radar data to natural resources exploration and environmental monitoring. The experiences and programmes of a number of countries, particularly those from the region of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) of the United Nations, in the development and applications of microwave remote sensing, were featured.

4. The present report, which covers the background, objectives, organization, observations and conclusions of the Workshop as well as a summary of the lectures presented (see annex I), has been prepared for the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. Participants will report to the appropriate authorities in their own countries.

B. Organization and programme of the Workshop

5. The participants were professionals with several years of experience in remote sensing or in developing plans for the management of natural resources and related programmes that can benefit from the applications of microwave remote sensing. The Workshop was attended by 85 participants from the following countries/territories and international organizations: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Canada, China, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, ESA, United Nations (Office for Outer Space Affairs) and United Nations Development Programme (Beijing Office).

6. Funds allocated by the United Nations and ESA for the organization of the Workshop were used to defray the cost of international air travel and daily subsistence allowance of 16 participants. The Government of China, through SSTCC, provided room and board for the same participants, as well as conference facilities and local transportation for all participants.

7. Opening addresses were presented by Ms. Zhu Lilan, Deputy Director General, SSTCC, on behalf of the Government of China, by Mr. R. Schumann on behalf of ESA and by Mr. A. A. Abiodun, United Nations Expert on Space Applications, Office for Outer Space Affairs.

8. The programme of the Workshop (see annex II) was developed jointly by the United Nations, SSTCC and ESA. The Workshop was conducted through a number of plenary and working group sessions. At the latter, the participants discussed the issues associated with microwave remote sensing and concluded the sessions with the following observations and recommendations.

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKSHOP

9. The deliberations of the Workshop during its working group sessions focused on the following three major areas of microwave remote sensing: (a) data availability and accessibility, (b) practical applications of radar data, and (c) required education and training. The discussions included references to the experience acquired in satellite microwave remote sensing by the international scientific and user communities.

A. Data availability and accessibility

10. Based on the in-depth discussions by the working group on the subject of availability of microwave data, it was the consensus of all participants that various data sources could be provided by current technology, though it may not be able to address all user needs due to the experimental nature of the technology and the inability to address all applications. With regard to data availability, the following recommendations were made in order to inform data providers of the fundamental needs of the users:

(a) Present and potential users should be more exposed to, and trained in the basic sciences that underlay microwave remote sensing technology so that they may fully comprehend the implementation of the technology and more fully utilize the relevant data;

(b) The user community should be more involved in the specification, design and development of the sensor technology in order to better address regional requirements;

(c) Acquisition of in-depth knowledge of the basic sciences that underlay microwave remote sensing technology will enable users to successfully implement demonstration programmes that could enhance the support of decision makers in expanding the utilization of data to address regional needs;

(d) Microwave sensor systems should provide data of useful quality, consistency and compatibility in such a way that it may be used repeatedly, unless constrained by other non-technical factors.

11. With regard to the discussions on improving access to microwave data to all users, the participants indicated the frustration of users in obtaining easy access to pertinent data for national or regional requirements. The following recommendations were made regarding the procedures of obtaining radar data:

(a) Better access to the data could be achieved through commercialization of the flow of data. Data providers should develop a method for users to access a standardized cataloguing and indexing system in order to easily obtain the required data, including any available historical data;

(b) To better serve the user community, cooperation and collaboration in the utilization of existing data sources in the Asia-Pacific region should be expanded in order to promote efficiency and cost-effective solutions to acquiring data;

(c) To achieve extensive utilization of the data, a multi-tier pricing policy should be instituted by providers.

12. The participants also noted that the preceding recommendations should be pursued in conjunction with the international exchange of ideas that was nurtured by the collaborative nature of the Workshop. To further this collaboration, it was recommended that a follow-on workshop be held within two years to evaluate the implementation of the recommendations put forward by the working group.

B. Practical applications of radar data

13. Participants selected three major applications areas for further discussion: disaster management, coastal and marine studies and agriculture. Participants agreed that flooding represented the most serious form of natural disaster facing the region and although some mention was made of volcanic and seismic disturbances, the detailed discussions conducted by participants primarily related to floods.

14. While the subject of the workshop was microwave remote sensing, some reservations were expressed due to the disproportionate emphasis given to synthetic aperture radar (SAR) technology. Consequently, discussions on each applications area attempted to go beyond this limitation and addressed other data sensors in order to more adequately cover the problem.

15. On the specific subject of flooding, the ability to determine flood extent and damage assessment were only part of the consideration. It was also thought important to reliably measure those parameters that were of significance in establishing a hydrologic model for flood prediction. These included soil moisture, snow cover, topography, precipitation and land cover. Requirements on these parameters were discussed with the conclusions presented in table 1.

Table 1. Flood monitoring and prediction

Parameter	Status[a]	Resolution	Accuracy	Frequency	Delivery
Flood extent	C	10 m (if depth required) 100 m (extent only)	10-100 m positional	Daily	Real-time 2 days
Soil moisture	P	30-100 m	+/-15% by volume	Weekly	1-3 days
Snow cover	C	30-1000 m	+/-10%	Weekly	1-3 days
Topography (Interferometry or stereoscopic)	P	30-100 m	0.5-1 m (vertical) 0.1-0.2 m (coastal region)	1 time. Repeat if topographical change occurs	..
Precipitation (by weather radar)	C	30 km	-	Hourly	Real-time
Land cover	C	1 km	-	Seasonal	..

[a]In this and subsequent tables, the status column refers to the current or expected capability to measure the parameter concerned. The letters used indicate "confident" (C) or "potential" (P).

Note: .. means not applicable.

16. Discussions on coastal and marine applications concentrated on those topics of major concern. Following presentations at the Workshop, the working group considered the detection of pollution (either from ships or shore-based industry) as the most important application. Industrial discharge into rivers was also mentioned as being of interest. Other applications considered were related to meteorology, coastline monitoring, fisheries and navigation. Although being fairly diverse, it was felt that one parameter could practically cover all of the mentioned items (see table 2).

Table 2. Coastal and marine applications

Parameter	Status	Resolution	Accuracy	Frequency	Delivery
Sea surface	C	50-200 m	+/-10%	1-3 days	Real-time to 1 week
Oil spill and coastal pollution detection	C	25-200 m	+/-10%	1-3 days	Real-time

17. The group determined that meteorological and certain fisheries and navigational applications were adequately met by current low-bit-rate products available from the European Remote Sensing satellite ERS-1, both in terms of product specification, coverage and repetitiveness. Some participants expressed concern regarding the delivery of these products within the ESCAP region.

18. Only four parameters were significant enough to be considered under agricultural applications. However, some variations in requirements of these could be anticipated, depending on the types of data available (multi-frequency, multi-polarization) and the particular classification scheme employed (general or species specific). The results of the discussion on this application are presented in table 3.

Table 3. Agricultural applications

Parameter	Status	Resolution	Accuracy	Frequency	Delivery
Crop area	P	5-50 m	+/-10%	1 crop cycle	<1 month
Crop identification	P	5-50 m	+/-10%	2-4 weeks	<1 month
Crop condition	P	5 m	+/-10% deviation from normal	1-2 weeks	<2 weeks
Soil moisture	P	20-200 m	+/-15% moisture by volume	-	-

19. The participants agreed that microwave remote sensing technology has reached a level that can contribute significantly to activities of economic importance. However, with the exception of meteorological applications, the majority of those areas discussed by participants still required considerable research and support through modelling, in order to improve interpretation of the data.

20. Remote sensing technology utilizes radiation from the ultraviolet (UV) to the microwave spectrum. The potential benefits and limitations in the appropriate complementary use of all wavelength data and acquisition techniques were advocated at the Workshop.

21. It was noted that the required frequency of observation for many of the parameters greatly exceeded that obtainable from a single platform. The working group recognized that development of the necessary multi-platform systems would not be feasible from a single agency. However, given the number of systems proposed for the coming decade, cooperation and coordination between both the providing agencies and ground-reception facilities could in fact enable the repeat coverage required.*

22. It was also noted that data delivery should be considerably improved from what is currently available. This is specifically the case for those applications that require a rapid response to a given situation.

23. In this context, the working group recommended that:

(a) Agencies should attempt to coordinate the design, deployment and operation of satellite-borne instruments in order to maximize the frequency of observation of a given site and to application needs;

(b) Regional cooperation in the monitoring of natural disasters should be encouraged in order to provide data to those agencies that require it. Consideration must be given to the need for rapid and reliable distribution and the costs of providing it;

(c) Active research should be carried out in the complementary and additive use of all remote sensing methodologies. This necessarily includes research into the modelling of the various interactive processes to more fully understand information content in such data combinations;

(d) Where feasible, remote sensing applications should be moved from the research phase to pre-operational and then fully operational status.

C. Required education and training

24. The members of the working group acknowledged that existing and planned radar-based Earth observation systems are very relevant to countries in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly for flood monitoring, forest surveys, geology, oceanographic surveys and natural disaster assessment applications. Therefore, an extensive education and training programme is needed so that countries in the region may fully benefit from airborne and satellite-borne SAR systems.

25. Some of the key education and training issues that must be addressed by Member States are: (a) who needs to be trained and why? (e.g. decision makers, professionals, technicians, educators, media); (b) how many need to be trained in each category?; (c) how long should the training be for each target group?; (d) where should the training take place? (e.g. in-house, on-the-job, locally, nationally, regionally, internationally); (e) what should be taught? (e.g. principles, techniques, applications); and (f) how should the training be funded?

26. The working group recommended that:

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*The Working Group noted that this subject is on the agenda of the Committee on Earth Observations Satellites.

(a) More training packages on microwave remote sensing should be prepared, describing principles, techniques and adapted to relevant applications. The operators of satellite-borne SAR systems should cooperate with universities and training centres to produce such packages. The training packages should be made available at the cost of reproduction to as many user agencies as possible. The United Nations system should promote their distribution in the Asia-Pacific region;

(b) More emphasis should be given to the education and training in methods of image fusion (combining optical and microwave data), in order to speed up the adoption of microwave technology, by supplementing existing operational methods of optical remote sensing. This will assist in overcoming the cloud-cover problem in the region and the complementary information content will provide synergy in the use of this information for such applications as map updating, temporal monitoring and hazard assessment;

(c) Training centres in Member States in the region should establish long-term "twinning" arrangements with advanced educational centres in the developed countries for fostering long- term, sustainable educational programmes;

(d) Specific thematic microwave workshops should be organized in the Asia-Pacific region by the United Nations, ESA, Canadian Space Agency (CSA) and other agencies to bring together relevant experts working on common problems of the region such as the use of microwave data for flood monitoring, deforestation studies, hazard assessment, environmental issues, crop monitoring and geology;

(e) Member States in the region should support the speedy establishment of a United Nations sponsored Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in the Asia-Pacific region.

Annex I

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS

A. Future missions of the European Space Agency

1. Of the systems used to date, the European Remote Sensing satellite (ERS-1) has been operational the longest. Launched from Kourou, French Guiana on July 17 1991, it was placed into polar orbit at an altitude of 785 km (nominal) from where it continues to take its measurements. The satellite was declared operational within six months and the payload instruments have performed well within their design specifications and have maintained an overall availability of better than 95 per cent.

2. Following in the wake of the success of ERS-1, the second satellite in the series, ERS-2, completed platform integration in December 1993, when thermal vacuum testing was begun. ERS-2 will be an almost exact copy of its predecessor and will be equipped with an identical Active Microwave Instrument (AMI), which combines two instruments: a Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) system and a Wind Scatterometer. The satellite is also equipped with a Radar Altimeter and Microwave Sounder in its predominantly microwave payload. The main changes that have been incorporated into the ERS-2 configuration become apparent in the optical elements of its instrumentation. Modifications have been made to the Along Track Scanning Radiometer (ATSR-2) to include three visible channels, thus adding vegetation and possibly atmospheric studies to its previous capabilities in the field of sea-surface temperature measurement. Addressing established concerns over human activities and their effects on the atmosphere, the inclusion of a completely new element to the instrument payload, the Global Ozone Monitoring Experiment (GOME), and the expansion of the mission objectives to include atmospheric studies, are also confirmed.

3. GOME is a spectrometer, scanning across track over the wavelength range 240-790 nanometres, splitting the received signal into four optical paths. By analysing the four spectra so obtained, it is possible to retrieve measures of the atmospheric constituents absorbed within this range. The most important of these is ozone, but other molecules are, at least in principle, also detectable. Other applications relating to cloud coverage and aerosol content may also prove possible.

4. With the launch of ERS-2 scheduled for late 1994 or early 1995, there is a possibility of a period of tandem operation of the two satellites, assuming the continued good status of ERS-1 and the availability of funding to support it.

5. Unlike ERS-1's multiple mission phases and repeat cycles, ERS-2 will operate in a single, 35-day repeat cycle for its entire planned operational life. Joint operation of the two satellites, with either one- or eight-day separation of visits by each to a given ground site, will require that ERS-1 is once more placed into a 35-day repeat cycle to match that of ERS-2. Given the fact that ERS-1 and ERS-2 are virtual twins, the new satellite can be expected to have a similar lifetime and performance to that of its predecessor, launch permitting. Both will use what is essentially the current operational ground segment, but modifications will be made to accommodate differences in instrumentation and the fact that it was not originally designed to handle two satellites simultaneously.

6. The environmental and meteorological emphasis of these two missions will be further strengthened by the Polar Orbiting Earth Observation Missions (POEOMs). Both the currently planned satellites in this series will carry a greatly expanded payload, covering the range of wavelengths from the ultraviolet to the microwave.

7. ENVISAT-1, the first of the two, is scheduled to follow-on directly from ERS-2 in 1998 with an anticipated operational life of four years. Five of the nine remote sensing instruments on this satellite have atmospheric applications, which illustrate the goal of the strengthening of this area as the primary mission objective.

8. Other requirements of the mission are to ensure some data continuity with the ERS missions of the early-to-mid 1990s. This will be addressed by the Advanced SAR (ASAR) and Radar Altimeter-2 instruments, which will be direct developments of those flown on the earlier satellites. Proposals for the ASAR will enable it to acquire data at varying incidence angles, swath widths and spatial resolutions, with the additional capability of acquiring with alternating HH or VV polarizations. Wave mode will continue to be supported.

9. Though the scatterometer will not be included on the ENVISAT mission, some wind and wave measurements will still be provided by the new altimeter. Modifications to this will enable it to track altitude and reflectivity over land in addition to the current abilities over ocean and sea ice.

10. The second satellite of the POEOM series will be METOP-1. This collaborative effort between the United States of America and Europe will have operational meteorology as its main objective. Beyond this requirement, additional instruments will address the subjects of climate monitoring, search and rescue, and studies of the space environment, within which some continuity of data and purpose of the earlier ERS and ENVISAT satellites will also be provided.

B. Overview of Canada's GlobeSAR programme

11. Canada, through the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing (CCRS), in cooperation with the Canadian Space Agency (CSA), the International Development Research Centre, Intera Technologies Ltd., Innotech Aviation, and Radarsat International Inc., is conducting a project in which airborne SAR imagery has been collected in Europe, Western Asia, Africa and the Asia/Pacific region. The three-year project has been named GlobeSAR. Participating countries include China, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Morocco, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam. In total, some 65 agencies, universities and departments are participating in GlobeSAR, the prime purpose of which is to increase the capability of the participating countries to use RADARSAT data in resource applications for planning, development and land-use management.

12. Identified research sites in each of the participating countries cover important terrain and vegetation conditions and represent research priorities for the countries. The initial stage of the programme was the data collection flight, carried out in the autumn of 1993. The data collected is being used to simulate RADARSAT data and thus familiarize users with the capabilities of this Canadian satellite, to be launched in early 1995. Through GlobeSAR, participants will have the expertise to be able to take advantage of RADARSAT data as soon as the satellite is operational.

13. Technology transfer and skills development are a primary aspect of GlobeSAR. To this end, the data collection stage was carried out with joint investigation of applications by researchers from Canada and the host countries. This is being followed by a multi-year training and development programme, based on a series of workshops which will be given in each country. The first workshops were combined with the initial planning missions in June-July 1993, the second were held at the time of the data collection flight, and the preliminary analysis workshops conducted from June to September 1994. Workshops in succeeding years are planned to become progressively more image processing and analysis-oriented.

14. Countries participating in GlobeSAR have placed a priority on utilizing modern techniques for future growth and development. Through their participation, they are committed to see this project through to a

successful conclusion. Radar imagery from GlobeSAR applications sites will be presented from the regions and will show the relative applicability of radar to various uses.

C. Development of microwave remote sensing technology in China

15. In China, microwave remote sensing technology has been under development since the 1980s. A wide range of microwave remote sensing systems are now operational and practical applications of the technology are widely used for the benefit of national economic development. There is an adequate number of personnel that are well-trained and educated in the relevant disciplines.

Development of microwave sensors

16. Both active and passive microwave sensors, including those types described below, are in use in China:

Radiometer: Many research institutions/organizations in China are involved in the development of radiometer systems. For example, the airborne 8 mm image radiometer, the airborne 15 cm image radiometer and the airborne X-band scanning radiometer have been designed by the Changchun Institute of Geography, Chinese Academy of Sciences. The microwave radiometer onboard the "Fengyun-III" satellite was designed by No. 504 Institute/Chinese Astronautics Corp. Several national universities are also working on radiometer development programmes;

Microwave scatterometer: An X-band ongoing scatterometer has been designed by the Electronic Physical Institute, Shanghai Science and Technology University. An airborne scatterometer/radiometer is now being made by the Space Application Center, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and a spaceborne scatterometer is being designed by No. 504 Institute/Chinese Astronautics Corp.;

SAR: The first Chinese SAR system was produced in the late 1970s. An airborne SAR system is now operational at the Institute of Remote Sensing Applications, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and a real-time processor was recently developed. A satellite-borne SAR system is currently under development by the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Astronautics Corp.

Development of microwave remote sensing applications in China

17. Microwave remote sensing applications are being developed in conjunction with the development of sensor hardware systems. The national focal point of these activities is the Institute of Remote Sensing Applications, Chinese Academy of Sciences, which has conducted several studies on the subject, including a study on "Airborne SAR remote sensing experiment research", that was sponsored by the State Science and Technology Commission of China, and a study on "Radar image analysis and geological application research", sponsored by the Chinese Academy of Sciences. There are many other scientific and research organizations conducting work in the field of microwave remote sensing applications for the benefit of national economic development. The main application fields in China include:

Oceanography: sea temperature, wind velocity, inner waves, sea pollution, red tide, coastal environment and sea ice monitoring;

Meteorology: meteorological prediction, climate evolution, natural disasters and atmospheric dynamics;

Hydrology: soil moisture monitoring, drought prediction, snow and rainfall prediction;

Agriculture: crop classification and assessment, forest biomass;

Geology: geological and mineral survey, oil exploration and development, structure study, seismic disaster and geo-evolution;

Disaster monitoring: real-time monitoring of floods, forest fires etc.

Further development of microwave remote sensing in China

18. In the future, microwave remote sensing in China will focus on the needs of national economic development. There is a need for international cooperation to develop advanced information acquisition and processing technology, and for the launch of several operational radar Earth observing satellites. Thus, the major goals of Chinese policy in this area are:

Advanced technology development: Development of advanced technology in order to improve Chinese microwave remote sensing research and development programmes, and to promote applications of space technology in the area of environmental monitoring and resource management;

Developing of space-borne microwave sensors: The national 863 Hi-Tech Programme is exploring the design, manufacturing and applications of Chinese spaceborne-SAR systems. Some relevant organizations are exploring development of a spaceborne multi-mode microwave sensor. The launch of the first Chinese spaceborne microwave sensor is planned before 2000;

Exploring the marketing approach to microwave remote sensing applications: Basic research programmes should lead to promotion of practical applications in different fields relevant to the national economy. Operational microwave remote sensing systems will be developed so that China may enter the international market for radar data and services and to benefit the country's economic development;

Strengthening international scientific exchange: Due to the rapid development and spread of microwave remote sensing technology, international scientific exchange should be strengthened and expanded.

D. Applications of microwave remote sensing data in India

19. The applications of microwave remote sensing data in India are at a different stage of development compared to the applications of optical remote sensing data. The applications in optical regions have acquired an operational status in many areas of natural resources survey monitoring and management in India. However, the use of microwave radar remote sensing data has not acquired similar status. The development of applications of microwave remote sensing data is summarized below.

Land resources applications

20. The first application-related activity in India was a temporal study of rice paddies carried out using a ground-based 9.4 GHz scatterometer. Very good correlation between the scattering coefficient and the different growth stages was observed. The study of interaction with crops and soils was initiated during the 1980s by the development of a ground-based scatterometer operating in the 1-18 GHz range. The system is presently installed at the agricultural farm of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute in New Delhi. It is used for carrying out controlled experiments in soil moisture and crop identification studies.

21. The X-band SLAR developed at Space Applications Centre (SAC) and at the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) along with the X-band SAR campaign of Intera Technology, Canada, has provided useful data for feasibility studies on soil-moisture detection and land-cover mapping. The X-band SLAR has shown clear discrimination between features such as castor, cotton, habitation, fallow fields and water bodies. The experimental investigations on X-band SAR have shown the discrimination possibility between crops such

as rice and sugar cane. The indigenously developed C-band airborne SAR instrument's data has provided much needed momentum. Its flights over Ahmedabad have provided the data for the purpose of urban land use and urban sprawl mapping using visual interpretation.

22. With the availability of ERS-1 SAR data, significant progress has been made in major areas such as soil-moisture detection/estimation, crop identification, geological mapping, exploration for hydrocarbon bearing structures etc. Several specialized software packages related to segmentation and filtering have been developed at SAC. The sensitivity of ERS-1 SAR data for soil-moisture variation has also been exploited for demonstrating its use in applications such as canal-water seepage, delineation of agricultural irrigated areas, irrigation information, identification of water-deficit areas, and for generating shallow water tables. The applications of ERS-1 SAR data have also been taken up within ISRO for assessing the potential for forestry applications. It was observed for an area covering parts of the Agra district that ERS-1 SAR data was able to provide classification accuracies comparable to those provided by data from optical sensors.

23. One of the most important types of information required is the nature and extent of damage caused by floods. The ISRO Department of Space has initiated systematic work on the possibility of monitoring the extent of floods using ERS-1 SAR data. Snow-pack water resources are of considerable significance in the management of irrigation systems, flood-warning systems, hydro-electric power schedules and regional water-supply systems. The Department of Space has also initiated experimental observations covering parts of the Himalayan region using data from ERS-1 SAR, SIR-C and X-SAR.

24. The data from SIR-A and SIR-B were utilized for understanding the microwave signatures of various objects. They were further used for identification of geological structures and lithology. ERS-1 SAR data was used in conjunction with IRS LISS-II optical data to prepare geological, geomorphological, lineament and tonal/textural maps of the Pur, Benera and Jahazpur areas of Rajasthan. The data obtained from non-imaging sensors have also been utilized for land resource applications. The GEOSAT altimeter data for the western coastal region were analysed for the generation of geoidal anomaly contours and the related density sliced geophysical images. These images were used to assist off-shore oil exploration

Ocean resource applications

25. The application of microwave radiometers for deriving various ocean-related information, such as sea-surface temperature and sea-surface winds, has now matured to a stage where it provides accurate measurements of these parameters on an operational basis. Indian national scatterometer and altimeter instruments for oceanographic applications are presently at the development stage.

26. The use of altimeter data for oceanographic applications was initiated in India with the launch of GEOSAT. Along with several routine applications, the GEOSAT altimeter data were used for the detection of charted and uncharted sea mounts in the Indian Ocean. The information on sea mounts is useful in deep-sea circulation studies, submarine navigation, locating fishing grounds and deep-sea mining. Advanced signal processing techniques and geopotential theories were developed for these detection activities.

27. With the launch of the ERS-1 satellite, the data obtained from its SAR, scatterometer and altimeter instruments have provided an impetus to other oceanographic applications in India. A number of scientists at SAC are presently working on the data obtained from these sensors. The ERS-1 scatterometer data are being used to generate weekly/monthly average maps of wind vector fields over India. The algorithms necessary for wind vector solutions and wind directional ambiguity removal have also been developed as has a methodology for cyclone parameter determination. The ERS-1 altimeter data, in conjunction with ERS-1 scatterometer data, are also utilized for the forecast of wave conditions in the seas around India. A computationally efficient numerical technique has been developed for the numerical model used for the

forecasts. The ocean wave forecast model proved to be very useful for advance planning of offshore and fisheries operations, ship routes, naval operations and the structural design of offshore/coastal installations.

28. The study of internal waves (subsurface waves found at depths of from tens to hundreds of metres) is also one of the significant oceanographic applications of SAR data being pursued in India. Internal waves manifest themselves in the form of distinct modulations of surface wave fields and hence are reflected clearly in a SAR image. Under an ESA/ISRO project, the data from ERS-1 SAR and IRS-1 LISS on cloud-free occasions are analysed to examine the different aspects of internal waves in the Andaman Sea.

E. Applications of radar technology: the Philippine experience

29. With the development of radar technology, microwave remote sensing data has proved to be a valuable tool for data acquisition in tropical countries such as the Philippines where cloudy conditions prevail almost throughout the year (in the Philippines, there are only about 22 cloudless days in a year. With these weather limitations, it is estimated that it would take more than 10 years to complete cloudless aerial photography coverage of the country, and much longer for optical satellite coverage). At present, applications of airborne SAR data in the Philippines are widely used for disaster/hazard monitoring and assessment, and topographic base mapping.

30. On 12 June 1991, the provinces in central Luzon, specifically the Pampanga and Tarlac provinces, were severely affected by the eruption of the Mount Pinatubo volcano. Natural and man-made resources such as infrastructure were heavily damaged and required billions of pesos for rehabilitation. Attempts were initially made to use both aerial photography and optical satellite data for damage assessment. However, because of cloud-cover problems, their use was limited. Thus, the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) proposed the use of airborne SAR systems for the immediate acquisition of images of the affected areas.

31. The system selected was the STAR-1 of Intera Technologies, Ltd., a lightweight, digital, fully-focused X-band SAR carried in a twin prop-jet Cessna Conquest aircraft. Out of the 30 million hectares of land area of the entire archipelago, 10,621,757 hectares were covered by the SAR survey which was undertaken by Intera. The primary objective of the SAR survey was to facilitate the immediate acquisition of data and information necessary for the immediate rehabilitation and monitoring of devastated areas of the country. In addition, these SAR acquired data were used also in the implementation of other development projects related to the management of the environment.

32. One of the major projects implemented and completed with the application of radar technology using the STAR-1 SAR system was the "Utilization of SAR data of northern Philippines (Luzon region) for earthquake damage assessment and geohazard classification". The project was implemented in 1991 with funding from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Among the information derived from the radar data were the location of local slumping and land scours; mapping of rock falls, rock slides and soil slides; detection of mud flows through liquefaction of muds on high slopes; mapping of offsets in lithologic units, geologic structure, geomorphic and cultural features; identification of areas of unconsolidated surface material prone to liquefaction; and proximity of unconsolidated surface material to faults or a high density of surface fracture lineaments.

33. In addition, Intera conducted a two-week training programme for user institutions in order to provide them with additional information on the products available. Another two-week training programme with emphasis on the specific use of SAR for earthquake hazard mapping that involved geologic, geotechnical and geophysical aspects in earthquake assessment, micronization, seismic coding and geohazard classification was also organized.

34. Phase II of the project involves the preparation of geologic, seismic zonation and geohazard maps covering approximately 9.3 million hectares of Luzon. This project is under development in collaboration with the Geotmatrix Consultant Group from the United States of America. It is expected that the project will produce geohazard maps of selected areas, and detailed geohazard and seismic zonation maps for two urban areas which will include: (a) variations in ground-shaking potential; (b) potential for liquefaction; and (c) potential for landslides. Training on state-of-the-art geotechnical technology for evaluating earthquake hazards and seismic micronization will also be provided as part of the project.

35. SAR data are widely used by NAMRIA in its project on "Resource mapping of the Philippines", which is being conducted as a part of the National Mapping Programme. This programme will result in production of a new topographic base map series of the Philippines, at a scale of 1:50,000, covering an estimated area of 21 million hectares, or about two thirds of the total land area of the country. This is extremely important for national development, due to the fact that existing base maps, especially for Visayas and Mindanao, are already 40 years old and, therefore, outdated not only in terms of information but also in format. While aerial photographs will still be the main source of information, SAR data are expected to provide supplemental information for areas that are perennially cloud-covered. This project will run for a period of 10 years in conformity with the international standard revision cycle for base maps.

36. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysic and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) is currently implementing a pilot project on the "Application of SAR data in flood hazard assessment of fluvial and coastal environment". ERS-1 data will be used to map the extent of flooded areas and to monitor land-use changes in and around flooded areas. The study area is the Bicol River Basin in Southern Luzon.

37. A research study on the use of ERS-1 SAR data is also being undertaken by the University of the Philippines Training Centre for Applied Geodesy and Photogrammetry (UPTCAGP). The project, entitled "Application of ERS-1 SAR data for environmental degradation assessment in the Mt. Pinatubo area and vicinity", aims to produce land-cover maps of the area. The first approach will utilize multitemporal SAR imagery to provide a basis for developing relationships between radar backscatter and ground features. The second approach will utilize SAR data in combination with other remotely sensed data, such as SPOT.

38. The last two projects are conducted in cooperation with the European Community (EC) and ESA.

F. Applications of radar data in agriculture and land-use management in Thailand

39. Since Thailand's ground receiving station was upgraded to receive ERS-1data in March 1993 and JERS-1 data in October 1993, applications of SAR data have been enlarged to include disciplines such as forestry and land use. The development of SAR systems for all-weather and all-season observation has led to increased interest in remote sensing applications. Due to insufficient development of specific algorithms for SAR data classification, data from several different types of sensor are combined for certain applications in Thailand, including surface changes studies, crop-type identification and land-use monitoring.

Application of SAR data for studies of coastal areas

40. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the potential applications of SAR data in comparison with Landsat TM data in coastal areas of Thailand. The study area covered the western part of Bangkok between latitude 13° 10' - 13° 25' N and longitude 99° 45' - 99° 59' E in certain parts of the Samut Songkram and Phetburi provinces. In general, the topography of the area was characterized by young delta, old delta and terrace features with approximate elevation from 1-350 m above sea level. Land-use features consisted of paddy fields, mixed orchards and shrimp ponds.

41. JERS-1 SAR and Landsat TM data acquired on 6 June 1992 and 2 November 1991, respectively, in the form of Computer Compatible Tape (CCT), were used for the study. Image processing of the data sets was carried out by using a Meridian Image Processing system. In preparation for image identification, SAR data were processed by standard filtering. Image registration was performed on Landsat TM data for geometric correction. Three ground-control points were selected to be spatially warped to a 1:50,000 Universal Transverse Mercator map projection by using cubic convolution algorithms to 12.5 m x 12.5 m pixel size.

42. This study produced satisfactory results with regard to identification of water content, mangrove forests, shrimp farms, field preparation for paddy cultivation, as well as urban areas, railways, roads and canals.

Application of SAR data for studies of urban areas

43. The main objective of this study was to examine the types of information that can be obtained from JERS-1 SAR data. The selected study area was Bangkok and its vicinity, which covered a region of about 700 square kilometres in the upper part of Bangkok and part of Nonthaburi and Pathumthalli. General land-cover types were urban, mixed orchards, swampy area and marsh area.

44. The data used in this study were JERS-1 SAR data acquired on 25 June 1992, at 12.5 m image resolution; LANDSAT TM data acquired on 28 May 1992; and SPOT panchromatic imagery acquired on 7 December 1989. The Landsat TM data bands 3, 4 and 5 were geometrically corrected using 1:50,000 topographic maps as a reference and were merged with JERS-1 SAR data as an image for image registration. To reduce noises on the SAR image, 3 x 3 median filtering was applied using the Meridian Image Processing system.

45. It was found that some confusing categories such as urban areas and swampy areas could be clearly separated on SAR-VIR colour composite due to the roughness characteristics of the objects. For agricultural applications more details on vegetation condition could be detected with the merged SAR-VIR image. Mixed orchards with different canopy characteristics (homogeneous and heterogeneous) could also be separated on this merged SAR-VIR image.

Utilization of SAR data for crop studies on the eastern coast of Thailand

46. The objective of the study was to evaluate ERS-1 SAR data for tropical crop identification and to develop methods for using ERS-1 SAR data in a complementary mode with optical remote sensing data for crop mapping. The study area was on the eastern coast of Thailand, between latitude 12° 20' - 13° 10' N and longitude 101° 10' - 101° 45' E. The topography of the area included riverine terrace, undulating and mountainous features. The major crops under cultivation in this area are rubber, mixed orchards, rice and field crops including pineapple, cassava and sugar cane.

47. ERS-1 SAR data acquired on 29 July 1993, 2 September 1993 and 18 April 1994 were used for the study. Geometric correction was applied to the July image for registering it to a Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) projection and re-sampling using the "nearest neighbour" technique to 12.5 m square pixels and then using this image as a reference image to which all data were registered. Data analysis was conducted visually on the basis of ERS-1 SAR multitemporal data. A standard filtering technique, the median filter with a 5 x 5 window, was applied to remove speckle noise on the image.

48. The data set of SAR with 12.5 m square pixels was divided into sub-areas where it ranged from flat to gently sloping terrain. Some areas in the mountainous zone were cut off due to a geometrical mismatch between different dates of ERS-1 SAR data since the SAR data were not terrain corrected. Satisfactory results were obtained with regard to the identification of tropical crop types, patterns and texture.

G. European Community/ESA/ASEAN ERS-1 Project

49. In November 1992 the European Community, in partnership with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and with the technical support of ESA, embarked upon an ambitious, three-element project to upgrade remote sensing facilities in South-East Asia in order to assist the developing countries of the region in the development of microwave remote sensing programmes and applications of ERS-1 and NOAA-AVHRR data. This was to be provided through hardware and software upgrades for both ERS-1 and AVHRR data acquisition, processing and archiving and, in the case of ERS-1, through the establishment of pilot projects and a training programme to be conducted over a period of two and one-half years. The structure of the project comprises three elements: two bilateral agreements (with Malaysia and Thailand) aimed at providing the necessary hardware and software resources to support new developments in remote sensing within ASEAN, and one regional component addressing the pilot project and training needs required.

50. The EC grant available to the project is ECU 3.9 million with an additional ECU 1.52 million contribution of ESA in the form of data and training facilities.

51. In Thailand, upgrading of existing acquisition facilities in support of ERS-1 has been completed and operations commenced in March 1993. Since then approximately 145 high density digital tapes (HDDTs) have been acquired, each one containing data from (on average) 3 to 4 satellite passes. This suggests that there is data for some 5,000-6,000 orbits recorded by the Thai receiving station that are now potentially available for production.

52. In addition to the precision processor, capable of producing ERS-1 products to ESA specification for a variety of product types, the processing chain incorporates the first operational installation of a quick-look processor, enabling even the longest passes to be processed to image form in less time than it takes to produce a single precision product. The quick-looks produced in this way provide a valuable visualization within the cataloguing facility that is also provided as part of the overall system. To date, approximately 65 HDDTs have been successfully screened by this processor and consequently form part of the catalogue.

53. In Malaysia, upgrades are to be made in two locations. The first upgrade will be an extension to the existing AVHRR acquisition facilities at the Malaysian Meteorological Service (MMS) which will include provision of capabilities for processing of higher level products using the ESA-developed SHARK system. A second facility will also be equipped with SHARK, as well as a Universal Interface Terminal (UIT) system and Stand-alone SAR Geocoding system (S-GEOS). All software packages run on Sun architecture.

54. Further installations of the three systems addressed by this bilateral agreement are to be made, and suitable training given, in both Indonesia and the Philippines, under direct agreement between the receiving agencies and ESA.

55. Eight pilot projects have been selected from the large number of proposals submitted and these have been distributed between the four countries that are participating in the project (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand). The pilot projects are intended to address applications issues that are of specific relevance to countries of the region, with particular emphasis on the use of ERS-1 data in addressing those needs.

56. The pilot projects are: (a) INDO-1: Land use assessment and monitoring using ERS-1 SAR data; (b) INDO-2: Application of ERS-1 SAR data for coastal zone management; (c) MAL-1: Complimentary nature of SAR and optical data for land cover mapping; (d) MAL-2: Coastal zone information from ERS-1 SAR satellite data; (e) PHIL-1: Application of ERS-1 SAR data to environmental degradation assessment in the Mt. Pinatubo area; (f) PHIL-2: Application of ERS-1 SAR data in flood hazard assessment of fluvial

and coastal environment; (g) THAI-1: Rice monitoring using ERS-1 data in Thailand; and (h) THAI-2: Application of ERS-1 SAR data for coastal studies in Khlung District, Thailand.

57. To support these pilot projects, the Project also provides an opportunity for appropriate training to involved personnel. Training programmes also help to facilitate the dissemination of information on the capabilities of the relatively new technology of microwave remote sensing among the participating countries. Foreseen within this element is the need to promote an awareness among the senior decision makers about the potential advantages to be gained from using remote sensing technologies, microwave in particular, in the decision-making process. For this reason the EC-ASEAN Project has structured its training programme into a series of layers, each targeted at a different audience:

Decision makers seminars: These are one-day events, with an intended audience of up to 200 decision and policy makers, with the intent of providing a quick overview of the possible applications areas to which microwave data can be usefully applied. Each participating country hosts one of these events;

Regional training workshops: These are for a period of two weeks each and introduce an audience of 24 researchers to the principles and practices of microwave remote sensing. Each event addresses a different applications area. The means of achieving this is through a series of lectures and laboratory sessions, conducted for the most part by visiting European experts and incorporating a 1- or 2-day field trip;

National training workshops: As a result of the recent Advisory Board Meeting, the exact format of these events has yet to be determined. One possibility would be to pool available funds to provide support for the development of sets of training materials, and then organize one event to train teachers on the use of those training materials.

58. Of the events held to date, all the decision makers seminars and all but one of the regional training workshops have been completed (the remaining regional training workshop is scheduled to be held in Indonesia by the end of 1994). Beyond this, there is provision for two researchers from each project to spend a period of time, up to three weeks, in Europe, at ESRIN facilities in order to address issues that are important to the ERS programme, and at the partner institutes of their respective projects to work on pilot project data using hardware, software and expertise that may not be readily available within ASEAN countries.

Annex II

PROGRAMME OF THE WORKSHOP

DATE/TIME	SUBJECT	SPEAKER
14 SEPTEMBER 1994		
08.00-09.20	Registration	
09.30-10.30	Opening ceremony	
	Chairman: Mr. Lin Quan (China)	
	Welcome address	Ms. Zhu Lilan Deputy Director General, SSTCC
	United Nations address	A. A. Abiodun (United Nations)
	ESA address	R. Schumann (ESA)
	Spaceborne radar remote sensing in the 1990s (1)	
	Chairmen: Prof. Chen Fangyun (China), Dr. A. A. Abiodun (United Nations)	
10.30-11.00	Microwave remote sensing technology development in China	Lin Quan (China)
11.00-11.30	ERS Future Programme	R. Schumann (ESA)
11.30-12.00	Development of national capabilities in remote sensing	A. A. Abiodun (United Nations)
	National Programmes	
	Chairmen: Prof. Chen Shupeng (China), Dr. W. Alpers (Germany)	
14.00-14.30	Results of radar research and applications programmes in India	R. C. Garg (India)
14.30-15.00	Philippines national programmes in applications of radar technology to environmental monitoring and natural resources management	J. Solis (Philippines)
15.00-15.30	Development of tools for natural resources management in Bangladesh using ERS-1 SAR data	A. Sardar (Bangladesh)
15.30-15.50	Break	
15.50-16.20	Educational aspects of introducing radar technology in Singapore	Lim Hok (Singapore)

15 SEPTEMBER 1994

Spaceborne radar remote sensing in the 1990s (2)

Chairmen: Mr. R. Schumann (ESA), Prof. Guo Huadong (China)

09.00-09.30	Canadian RADARSAT Programme	J. McNally (Canada)
09.30-10.00	Canada's GlobeSAR Programme - An overview	F. Campbell (Canada)
10.00-10.30	Chinese spaceborne SAR system	Zhu Minhui (China)
10.30-11.00	RADARSAT update: applications, products and market development	G. Elms (Canada)
11.00-11.30	JERS-1 and follow-on programmes of Japan	T. Tanaka (Japan)
11.30-12.00	European Community/ESA/ASEAN ERS-1 project	R. Schumann (ESA)

Radar data processing and calibration

Chairmen: Dr. G. Sun (USA), Prof. Jiang Jinshan (China)

13.30-14.00	The new DLR SAR processor	A. Moreira (Germany)
14.00-14.30	Calibration of operational SAR systems	G. Keyte (United Kingdom)
14.30-15.00	Implementation of advanced SAR technologies for future Globe SAR programmes	W. C. Bayer (Canada)
15.00-15.30	Forest ecological studies and radar backscatter modeling	G. Sun (USA)
15.30-15.50	Break	

Radar data applications. Session I:

Radar data applications in agriculture, forestry and environmental monitoring

Chairmen: J. McNally (Canada), T. Tanaka (Japan)

15.50-16.20	Applications of radar data in agriculture and land-use management in Thailand	R. Simking (Thailand)
16.20-16.50	Applications to environmental monitoring	M. Manore (Canada)
16.50-17.20	Forest structure from SAR imagery	K. J. Ranson (USA)

16 SEPTEMBER 1994

08.30-17.00	Visit to the Department of Airborne Remote Sensing, NRSC	
	Visit to Institute of Remote Sensing Applications, Chinese Academy of Sciences	

17 SEPTEMBER 1994

Radar data applications. Session II:

Radar data applications to geology, mineral exploration and oceanography

Chairmen: Dr. F. Campbell (Canada), Dr. G. Keyte (United Kingdom)

09.00-09.30	Applications of radar remote sensing in natural resources investigation and management	Guo Huadong (China)
09.30-10.00	Imaging ocean by ERS-1 SAR	W. Alpers (Germany)
10.00-10.30	Sea and ice monitoring using SAR	S. Jiancheng (USA)
10.30-11.00	Break	
11.00-11.30	Progress in applications of SAR data in Indonesia	K. Mahdi (Indonesia)
11.30-12.00	Image fusion of optical and microwave satellite data for Earth sciences applications	J. van Genderen (ESA)

Radar data applications. Session III:

Radar data applications to meteorology, climatology and disaster monitoring

Chairmen: Li Deren (China), R. Schumann (ESA)

13.30-14.00	Applications of space technology for natural disasters monitoring	Jiang Jinshan (China)
14.00-14.30	Break	

14.30-19.00 Working Groups session:

(i) Working Group on data availability and accessibility

Chairmen: K. Mahdi (Indonesia), W. C. Bayer (Canada)
Rapporteurs: Lu Xiao Qing (China), V. Sicat-Alegre (Philippines)

(ii) Practical applications of radar data

Chairmen: R. Schumann (ESA), Lim Hok (Singapore)
Rapporteurs: R. Simking (Thailand), J. Ab Talib (Malaysia)

(iii) Required education and training

Chairmen: Li Deren (China), J. van Genderen (ESA)
Rapporteurs: Luo Xianyuan (China), Huang Yong Hong (China)

18 SEPTEMBER 1994

09.00-10.00 Working Groups session (continued)

10.00-11.00 Workshop discussion

Chairmen: Dr. A. A. Abiodun (United Nations), Lin Quan (China)

(i) Report by Chairmen of the Working Groups sessions

(ii) Discussion on the reports

(iii) Adoption of the reports of the Working Groups

11.00-11.20 Break

11.20-11.45 Summary and evaluation of the Workshop — A. A. Abiodun (United Nations)

11.45-12.15 Closing ceremony

Chairman: Ma Junru (China)

Closing address	A. A. Abiodun (United Nations)
Closing address	V. Hood (ESA)
Closing speech	Xu Guanhua Deputy Director Academy of Sciences of China

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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REPORT ON THE UNITED NATIONS/INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTICAL FEDERATION SYMPOSIUM ON BENEFITS OF SPACE TECHNOLOGY FOR THE DEVELOPING WORLD: FROM ECONOMIC GROWTH TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

(Israel, 6-9 October 1994)

CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	Page
INTRODUCTION	1-14	2
A. Background and objectives	1-5	2
B. Organization and programme	6-10	2
C. Funded participants in the Symposium	11-14	3
I. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	15-16	3
II. PRESENTATIONS TO THE SYMPOSIUM	17-32	6
Annex. Programme of the Symposium		9

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INTRODUCTION

A. Background and objectives

1. The General Assembly, by resolution 37/90 of 10 December 1982, endorsed the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82) that the United Nations Programme on Space Applications should promote the growth of indigenous nuclei and an autonomous technological base in space technology in developing countries. At its thirty-seventh session, in June 1993, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space endorsed the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 1994 as recommended by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee at its thirtieth session. Subsequently, the General Assembly, by resolution 48/39, endorsed the activities of the Programme on Space Applications for 1994.

2. The present report contains a summary of the United Nations/International Astronautical Federation Symposium on Benefits of Space Technology for the Developing World: from Economic Growth to Environmental Protection and the conclusions and recommendations that were adopted by the participants. The full text of the proceedings will be published later. The Symposium was organized as part of the 1994 activities of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and its Programme on Space Applications. The Symposium was the fourth in a series organized by the United Nations and was held in conjunction with the 45th Congress of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) in Israel. The previous symposia and workshops in this series were held in Canada, United States of America and Austria.

3. The Symposium was held immediately prior to the 1994 IAF Congress in order to enable the funded representatives to also participate in the Congress. The European Space Agency (ESA) and the Commission of the European Communities (CEC) co-sponsored the Symposium, which was hosted by the Israeli National Committee on Space Research (NRSC), on behalf of the Government of Israel.

4. The objective of the Symposium was to present well-established models of space applications and to develop, through working group discussions, general principles on how developing countries could successfully use space technologies, including remote sensing and space communications systems, for environmental protection and for economic and social development. The funded participants were also requested to deliver short presentations on space activities they were involved with in their own countries, and to discuss among themselves ways and means of furthering the applications of space technology.

5. The present report, covering the background, objectives and organization of the Symposium, as well as the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the participants, has been prepared for the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. Participants will report to the appropriate authorities in their own countries.

B. Organization and programme

6. The following Member States and intergovernmental and international organizations were represented at the Symposium: Brazil, Cameroon, China, Costa Rica, Egypt, India, Mexico, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Thailand, Uruguay; ESA, CEC, IAF, International Maritime Satellite Organization (INMARSAT), International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (OOSA). Speakers, Chairmen and participants from Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Ireland, Israel, Netherlands, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States also attended.

7. Funds allocated by the United Nations, IAF and the co-sponsors for the organization of the Symposium were used to cover the travel costs of funded participants for international air travel, per diem expenses for the period of the Symposium and the IAF Congress, and registration for the Congress.

8. The Symposium was formally opened by J. Grey, President Emeritus of IAF. A welcoming address was also made by N. Jasentuliyana, the Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs.

9. The programme of the Workshop (see annex) was jointly developed by the United Nations, IAF and the other co-sponsors. It was designed to provide the participants, through plenary presentations, with knowledge about the various efforts that were being undertaken at the national and international level to provide access for the developing countries to new technologies.

10. Through short presentations, the funded participants provided an overview of the programmes they were involved with in their own countries. The format of the Symposium was designed to provide ample opportunities to discuss ways and means of developing indigenous capabilities in space applications with due regard for the educational, cultural and economic characteristics of the countries concerned.

C. Funded participants in the Symposium

11. Funded participants from developing countries were selected jointly by the co-sponsors of the Symposium from among those who met the qualifications required, one of which was possession of a university degree in one of the fields covered by the programme. Most participants had a technical background. A few key policy makers, at a decision-making level from both national and international entities, were also invited.

12. The latter individuals were selected well in advance of the Symposium and asked to identify within their presentations the key issues that would persuade them to place a higher priority on the operational implementation of space applications. The more technically oriented representatives held positions in institutions or private ventures dealing with resource management, environmental protection, communications, remote sensing systems or industrial and technological development.

13. The co-sponsors of the Symposium provided a daily subsistence allowance to all developing country participants in order to allow more individuals from developing countries to participate in the 45th IAF Congress, which was held from 8 to 15 October 1994 at Jerusalem.

14. At the end of the Symposium, all participants were assigned to a senior IAF member who assisted in guiding the participants through the Congress. The participants expressed their thanks to the United Nations and the other co-sponsors for their financial assistance and for the technical quality of the programme.

I. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

15. The overall direct benefits of space technology for providing alternative solutions in the fields of communications, meteorology, natural resource management and environmental monitoring have significantly altered the perceptions of development in the technologically more advanced countries. However, in many developing countries it still remains a challenge to demonstrate to high-level policy makers the potential benefits, particularly for economic and social development, of utilizing space technology and applications.

16. Explosive population growth, limited land resources, low levels of agricultural activity and poor management of land and water resources have made the task of providing food security to the peoples of the developing countries a formidable challenge. Space technology can contribute to a realistic appreciation of

the problems and to a rapid improvement of agricultural production on a sustainable basis. In this context, the Symposium participants agreed upon the following conclusions and recommendations.

General

1. Policy makers should be shown that the use of space technology can constitute an important element in the overall development policy of their countries.

2. The developing countries, developmental aid and national and international space agencies should discuss ways of expanding cooperation in the field of space technology. National and international space agencies, in particular, should take into account the needs of the developing countries when defining their programmes.

3. Because space offers a wide range of "technology entrances", from relatively low-technology ground segments to actual involvement in satellite production and launch, there are also many opportunities for technology transfer. It is important to note, however, that technology transfer can only be accomplished by cooperation between the developing and industrialized countries, particularly through industrial entities and that the major factor governing such cooperation should be mutual interest.

4. The involvement of local industry in developing countries is an essential requirement for expanding the use of space technology and applications in the developing countries. The participation of local industry can create the momentum needed to stimulate the continuation of programmes and lead to the creation of the necessary infrastructure for fostering technology development and utilization.

5. When altering or modernizing systems for resource management with the goal of improving productivity or environmental quality, special attention should be paid to ensuring that existing methods are well understood. In some developing countries existing resource management systems may have evolved over a long period of time and may be more suited to local conditions than methods adopted in other regions or under different conditions.

6. Training and education should be provided to specialists in order to permit the developing countries to fully benefit from new technologies.

7. Any programme for the promotion of economic growth through the use of space technology should be accompanied by parallel action plans for protecting the environment and for reducing the impact of natural disasters.

8. Developing countries must be assisted and encouraged to adopt a goal-oriented, time-bound and practical approach for the selective application of space technology to solve their basic problems and should be provided with the necessary assistance to achieve the required degree of self-reliance and technical expertise.

Remote sensing

9. Problems related to food supply, environmental degradation and sustainable development are likely to be further exacerbated by population growth which, in absolute terms, is occurring primarily in developing countries. Space-borne remote sensing instruments can provide an adequate tool for overcoming these problems.

10. It was recognized that data from a large number of remote sensing satellites are widely available, and many new satellites are being planned, each of which will provide even more high-quality data. The technology for enhancing, analysing and combining these data is now operational and the cost of systems to perform this analysis continues to decrease.

11. Remote sensing has fully demonstrated its capability to identify wetlands for reclamation, delineate underground water supplies, monitor surface water and soil conditions, provide timely information on crops, and assist in the management of natural disasters such as floods and droughts.

12. National and international space agencies should implement, in cooperation with developing countries, pilot projects to demonstrate to decision makers in those countries the usefulness of Earth observation satellites. Efforts to encourage the sharing of information on successful operational remote sensing programmes should be increased, especially among developing countries.

13. Missions and associated instruments planned by international and national space agencies should be closely scrutinized by the user community in developing countries. This review process should be initiated as soon as possible because many relevant space missions are currently under preparation or in the process of being defined.

14. The space agencies should increase their efforts in the developing countries to promote the operational use of data provided by their systems. This should be done in cooperation with users, the local authorities concerned, the United Nations and CEC, as well as industry. These efforts should include pilot projects, expert visits and enhanced training opportunities.

15. With regard to ongoing and future Earth observation missions, there must be continuity of programmes based on real user needs, continuity in local capacity building efforts (including training of new operators and decision makers) and continuity in the availability of data. There is a strong need for an international network for accessing data from Earth observation satellites.

16. Ongoing research and development into systems that will allow the integration of data from different satellites and other sources, which can be used to predict effects on resources and the environment, should be made available to developing countries. Special attention should be paid to the establishment of ways and means of developing simple to use, low-cost applications.

17. Remote sensing technology and applications are multidisciplinary in nature and require the establishment of an organizational system at the national level to effectively introduce and implement remote sensing applications. Such a system could lead to a wider involvement of users, to the promotion of awareness among decision makers, to training and human resources development and to the development of applications projects in line with local needs.

18. Users should be involved from the early stages of applications development. The effective implementation and operationalization of applications that are relevant to the needs and priorities of each country are essential to success, and these in themselves could strongly influence policy or decision makers to continue to support the programmes.

Telecommunications

19. Satellite broadcasting, as illustrated by numerous examples, can serve as an important catalyst and motivator in the development process, particularly in rural and remote areas.

Emerging technologies hold great promise for meeting the needs of developing countries for improved education and training.

20. Opportunities should be sought for joint ventures between companies from the industrialized countries and those in the developing countries. Such joint ventures should offer the developing countries a fair share of ownership and the clear potential for expansion and growth of space capabilities. Education and training mechanisms should encourage and facilitate the transfer of outside expertise in the technologies, particularly the operation and use of space systems (including ground-based equipment) to personnel in developing countries.

21. It is realistic to assume that the financial resources for extending communications to remote and rural areas are available. The bottom line, however, is that it requires initiative and some entrepreneurial activity from within Governments, public telecommunications providers or from other service providers, who recognize the value of getting involved in and profiting from the telecommunications business.

22. Among the technologies currently available for delivery of services to remote and rural areas, some are more cost-effective than others. There is, however, no single solution and, depending upon the particular situation, a variety of technologies should be applied. Developing countries should also adopt policies and regulations that would facilitate the availability of telecommunication services in remote and rural areas.

23. Developing countries need to enhance their capabilities in systems planning, and the operation and maintenance of the ground segment of space-based broadcasting systems. Aspects such as access to television and providing the appropriate feedback mechanisms, should be taken into account at the planning stage itself so that the full benefits of satellite broadcasting can be derived. Addressing regional problems in local languages requires the involvement of local people in systems planning and software production.

II. PRESENTATIONS TO THE SYMPOSIUM

17. The presentations focused on the problems faced by the developing countries that could be solved through the use of space technology. The main emphasis of the presentations was to highlight general principles on how developing countries could successfully use space technologies, including remote sensing and space communication systems, for environmental protection and for economic and social development.

18. It was noted that the use of space data requires mechanisms and organizations in the country concerned to ensure its proper dissemination and utilization. The experience of a number of countries has indicated that this is no easy matter.

19. It was repeatedly emphasized that depending on the actual situation, needs and resources in a particular country, space technology can, if properly used, lead to faster economic growth and stronger overall development. This requires that all countries be provided with access to the information and technology needed to participate in various space applications so as to derive the benefits of space technology.

20. In addition, it was mentioned that concrete and practical benefits of space emerged mainly from end-to-end application projects. Thus, the real benefits from a remote sensing system or a telecommunication satellite do not merely come from constructing and launching the system or collecting and receiving data, nor from solely processing and analysing the data. Rather, the practical benefits come only after the analysed

data are given to the user and actually used in resource management, health care, cartography, agriculture, education, or other applications areas.

21. Participants stated that understanding the natural environment and its relationship with ecological processes is a prerequisite for undertaking any developmental planning anywhere in the world. While humanity's dependence on the environment is greater than that of other organisms, its pursuit of progress has caused tremendous stress on the environment.

22. It was noted that if the present trends of economic growth continue to depend on expanded use of fossil fuels, the quantitative effect of global warming will undoubtedly result in a change of climate, depletion of ozone levels, an increase in sea levels and ultimately lead to an ecological disaster affecting the whole world.

23. It was reiterated that space technology can play a key role in the monitoring of these changes and in the development of strategies to counteract current trends. Closer cooperative links should be established among the developing countries themselves as well as between industry in the developed and developing countries.

Remote sensing

24. The benefits of remote sensing data for providing repetitive, synoptic coverage of large areas across various spatial scales was mentioned. It was stated that remote sensing can be a highly cost-effective technology for managing natural resources and that data from a number of satellites are now available to every country. These data can provide valuable information for resource assessment and can be a valuable aid in making decisions related to resource management.

25. In deciding between the use of satellite remote sensing versus aircraft or conventional ground techniques it was stated that cost-effective, extensive and repetitive coverage of the surface of the Earth can only be provided by satellite systems. These data can then be integrated into geographical information systems (GIS) which are designed to use a large variety of spatial data, and to efficiently store, manipulate, analyse and display these data according to user-defined specifications.

26. It was stated that the use of Earth observation techniques in the developing countries must take into account special conditions which are not necessarily relevant elsewhere. Before implementing operational remote sensing programmes, the lack of conventional data, urgency of environmental and humanitarian problems, generally poor infrastructure and absence of trained personnel must be addressed. Remote sensing, as helpful as it can be for a variety of applications, has therefore only emerged slowly in the developing countries, and it is important to understand the key factors for successful implementation of remote sensing technology and the extent to which they are specific to the regions concerned.

27. Remote sensing is a cost-efficient tool for confronting some of the many problems currently faced by the developing world and an essential element in national, regional and international planning efforts to implement programmes based on the concept of sustainable development. Remote sensing programmes can help countries to use their resources more efficiently, while safeguarding the environment for current and future generations.

Telecommunications

28. Presentations on telecommunications focused on issues of rural and remote area communications and the imbalances between developed and developing countries in educational advancement. For developing countries, it is clear that illiteracy can be eradicated only through the rapid expansion of education, which forms the first essential step in any action aimed at improving living conditions.

29. Traditional educational methods are clearly insufficient for achieving the educational goals of many developing countries. Space technology, however, has provided new mechanisms for countries to meet those goals. For example, distance education through the use of satellites, which is capable of reaching wide audiences at various educational levels, can provide learning opportunities at costs that are lower than traditional education methods and represents a potential solution to the problem of illiteracy.

30. Several countries have recognized the potential of satellite-based television broadcasting as a medium for mass communication and education and have developed a high level of expertise in space communications for educational applications. New distance education systems use multi-media, including television, video cassette recorders and printed materials to form a comprehensive learning package. Satellite telecommunications can serve as a vital vehicle for distance education and deliver services at reduced rates as experiences in China, India and Indonesia have shown.

31. It was reiterated that throughout the world very little economic and social growth can take place without an adequate telecommunications infrastructure. Many countries have recognized this and have begun to invest in the necessary infrastructure, in both urban and rural areas, to take advantage of new technologies. This has helped to slow migration to some urban areas, which is a central policy goal in many developing countries. It was also noted, however, that in many cases the extension of microwave towers, fibre optic cable or even copper wire-based systems to remote and rural areas is simply beyond the financial capabilities of many developing countries.

32. It is in these cases where satellite-based systems can be vital due to their ability to deliver services anywhere in the world at any time. It is important to understand that a large percentage of the future market for such systems, especially with the advent of personal satellite communications, will be in the developing countries, and that the rapid development of new communication technologies throughout the world will be closely related to increased international cooperation.

Annex

PROGRAMME OF THE SYMPOSIUM

DATE/TIME	SUBJECT	SPEAKER
6 OCTOBER 1994		
08.30-09.00	Registration	
	Plenary session	
09.00-09.40	Opening	United Nations/IAF, Israel
09.40-10.10	Keynote address: Space cooperation - paving the way for social, economic and environmental security in the 21st century	J. Grey (United States)
10.10-10.30	Break	
10.30-11.00	Benefits from space technology - cooperating with the developing world	J. Arets (ESA)
11.00-11.30	Use of space technology for food security	U. R. Rao (India)
11.30-12.00	Use of space technology in protecting the Earth environment	J. P. Malingreau (CEC)
12.00-12.30	Discussion	
12.30-14.30	Lunch	
14.30-15.00	Space education and training in the developing countries	C. Hoffmann (United Nations)
15.00-15.30	Opportunities and problems in deriving the maximum benefits from the use of satellite data in Africa	D. Mabi (Cameroon)
15.30-16.00	Accessing data obtained by satellites - establishing an international network	S. Vibulsresth (Thailand)
16.00-16.15	Break	
16.15-17.30	Discussion	

7 OCTOBER 1994

Remote sensing for a better understanding of the environment

09.00-09.30	Prospects for the continuity of satellite image data for sustainable development and environmental protection	G. Jensen (ESA)
09.30-10.00	Remote sensing for monitoring desertification and droughts	A. Karnieli (Israel)
10.00-10.10	Break	
10.10-10.40	Cooperating with the industrializing world	F. Jansen (Netherlands)
10.40-11.10	The industrialized world - aspects of cooperation	R. Mucio (Brazil)
11.10-12.00	Discussion	
12.00-13.00	Lunch	

Rural communication

13.00-13.30	Delivery of mobile satellite services to rural areas	D. Wright (INMARSAT)
13.30-14.00	Satellite broadcasting for the benefit of rural and remote areas	K. Narayanan (India)
14.00-14.10	Break	
14.10-14.40	Satellite communications for mass education	L. Dingsheng (China)
14.40-15.10	Establishing favourable tariffs - the Indonesian experience	D. Hendrojono (Indonesia)
15.10-16.00	Discussion	

8 OCTOBER 1994

Closed working group meeting

Global change

09.00-09.20	Earth observation and global change - the European perspective	J. P. Malingreau (CEC)

09.20-09.40	The role of developing countries in global change	A. Setzer (Brazil)
09.40-10.00	Discussion	
	Presentations of funded participants	
10.00-12.00	Brief presentations by selected participants	
12.00-12.30	General discussion	
12.30-14.00	Lunch	
	Report preparations	
14.00-17.00	General discussion and preparation of draft recommendations	

9 OCTOBER 1994

	Plenary session	
10.00-10.30	Chairmen present the report	
10.30-11.30	General discussion on recommendations	
11.30-12.30	Adoption of report and closing ceremony	